

Health and Family Planning Overview

NIGERIA



Population:	126.3 million (PRN 2000)
Infant Mortality Rate:	75.2 (DHS 1999)
DPT3 Coverage:	26.1%, children 12–23 mos. (DHS 1999)
Nutrition:	45.5% stunting, children 0–35 mos. (DHS 1999)
Total Fertility Rate:	5.2 (DHS 1999)
Maternal Mortality Ratio:	800 (1995, WHO/UNICEF 2001)
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate:	8.9%, all women, modern methods (1999 DHS)
Adult HIV Prevalence:	5.8% (UNAIDS 2001)
Current Living AIDS Orphans:	1,000,000 (UNAIDS 2001)
Demographic and Health Surveys:	1986 (Ondo State), 1990, 1999
Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys:	1995

Country Profile

The transition to democracy is just beginning for Nigeria, which returned to democratic government in 1999 after 15 years of military rule. Years of corruption and embezzlement by previous governments have left Nigeria impoverished with a weak infrastructure. The country continues to struggle with weak public administration, corruption, and poor social services. Nonetheless, Nigeria has great development potential, especially from its natural resources, which include petroleum, minerals, and agricultural products. Along with developing policies to better use these resources, the government has initiated a variety of economic reform programs such as privatization of state-owned enterprises and liberalization of foreign investment policies. Establishing and implementing new programs and policies will take time. In the interim, the world hopes that sub-Saharan Africa's most populous country will progress with political, social, and economic reform.

HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to take its toll, with increasing numbers of people affected as victims, caregivers, or orphans. At the end of 2001, approximately 3.5 million Nigerians were infected with the virus. To date, it is estimated that 1.4 million Nigerians have died of AIDS. The government has stepped up efforts to crack down on the epidemic by establishing the National Action Committee on AIDS. Interventions continue to target high-risk populations such as commercial sex workers and transportation workers. USAID has supported efforts to create a “condom culture” in Nigeria. In 2001, sales of condoms reached 107 million. Efforts have expanded to include adolescents, the military, and police, but the livelihoods of ordinary working people are increasingly affected by the epidemic. The importance of HIV/AIDS as a development issue will grow as it overburdens an already weak health care system and continues to pressure the nation's economy and health.

USAID Strategy

Nigeria's transition to an elected democracy brings new opportunities for USAID/Nigeria. A two-year strategy that began in fiscal year 2000 included program and personnel increases and has established new relationships with the public, private, and civil society sectors. In the health component, USAID began to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, and maternal and child health activities into a more strategically targeted program. The new priorities reflect an expanded commitment to democracy and economic development and a continued commitment to population and health issues.

Strategic Objective: Increased use of family planning, maternal and child health, and HIV/AIDS services and preventive measures



Intermediate Results:

- Improved HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and control practices
- Increased voluntary use of family planning
- Improved maternal and child health practices

Major Program Areas

HIV/AIDS. USAID's activities are focused on policy development, behavior change, and support for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. USAID seeks to increase demand for and use of condoms through information, education, and communication activities. It has engaged key public policymakers to develop a national protocol for managing STIs and to launch an HIV/AIDS emergency action plan that encourages the involvement of the governments of all 36 states. USAID also engaged local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to target faith-based groups, the military, and high-risk groups for peer education and prevention information activities. USAID continued its support for orphans and caregivers, who are benefiting from education, vocational training, and basic subsistence assistance.

Health and Family Planning. USAID/Nigeria works with community NGOs to provide safe, affordable, and quality family planning services. The Mission's efforts focus on increasing the use and availability of quality family planning services in 14 of 36 states. Family planning services and products are provided through community-based distributors and clinics. USAID also provides training to traditional birth attendants and patent medicine dealers who sell family planning products. Support continues for maternal and child health activities focused on social mobilization and personnel training. USAID supported national immunization days for polio eradication. A plan was also developed to strengthen routine immunization and basic health services in 20 local government areas across the country. As a USAID malaria "Plus Up" country, Nigeria is the site of an innovative public-private partnership to improve access to insecticide-treated bed nets through the commercial sector.

Results

- 47 million children were vaccinated as part of the polio eradication effort.
- Support was provided for training 200,000 vaccinators and other personnel and for promoting the polio vaccination program through national publicity campaigns on radio and television.
- Funds were provided for market research to determine the most appropriate bed nets for a viable malaria program.
- A national nutrition survey was implemented, with results expected in 2002.
- Contraceptive use increased, with couple-years of protection increasing by 50 percent from 953,030 to 1.4 million.
- More than 2,000 peer counselors from targeted groups (road transport workers, female sex workers, and faith-based groups) were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention information.
- More than 3 million Nigerians received HIV/AIDS information from peer counselors.
- A youth-oriented telephone hotline was established for HIV/AIDS information, counseling, and referrals.
- More than 3,000 orphans and vulnerable children benefited from HIV/AIDS programs through access to education, vocational training, and basic subsistence assistance.
- Nearly 500 caregivers received support from small microenterprise projects to help them support orphans affected by AIDS.

Major Implementing Partners

USAID/Nigeria's partners in implementing population, health, and nutrition activities include the Johns Hopkins University, the Center for Development and Population Activities, EngenderHealth, the Futures Group International, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Macro International, Pathfinder International, Family Health International, International AIDS Alliance, Population Services International, NetMark, and John Snow/BASICS.



This USAID Health and Family Planning Overview was prepared for the Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development, by the Population, Health and Nutrition Information Project (PHNIP). Questions and comments can be directed to PHNIP (info@phnip.com).

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